



Emergency Medical Services Certification Requirements and Scope of Practice

Information in this document reflects standards as of 10/28/03 and is meant as a general guideline only. For more information, please call 1-800-458-5281 or visit our website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/emtp/T>

The Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System certifies prehospital patient care providers for Washington State. Applicants for each Emergency Medical Services (EMS) certification level must meet the following requirements:

- be at least 18 years of age prior to the beginning of training
- successfully complete a Washington State approved EMS Training Course
- pass a Washington State written certification examination
- have a high school diploma or equivalent (except for the First Responder level)
- be associated with a Washington State licensed EMS service
- have their EMS supervisor verify the applicants association with the identified agency by signing the application for certification
- have their County Medical Program Director (MPD) sign and recommend certification on the application
- submit a photo ID that identifies their date of birth
- have MPD protocols in his/her possession prior to engaging in patient care
- complete Continuing Medical Education (CME) and pass a Washington State written certification examination or complete an On-Going Training and Evaluation Program (OTEP) for recertification.

“Scope of Practice” is defined as “authorized care” which is identified in WAC 246-976-182

- (1) Certified EMS/TC personnel are only authorized to provide patient care that is:
 - (a) included in the approved curriculum for the individual's level of certification and
 - (b) included in approved specialized training; and
 - (c) included in approved MPD protocols.
- (2) When a patient is identified as needing care which is not authorized for the providers, the certified person in charge of that patient must consult with medical control as soon as possible, if protocols and regional patient care procedures do not provide adequate off-line direction for the situation.
- (3) For trauma patients, all prehospital providers must follow the Washington State approved trauma triage procedures; regional patient care procedures and MPD patient care protocols.

[Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.71, 18.73, and 70.168 RCW. 00-08-102, § 246-976-182, filed 4/5/00, effective 5/6/00.]

Please review the chart on the next page to associate the levels of EMS care.



Level of Care & Estimated Training Hours	Medical Control & Skills Capabilities
First Responder: 54 hours plus 5 patient contacts.	MPD protocols, patient assessment, CPR, AED, O2, BVM, bandaging, splinting, trauma, triage, medical, pediatrics.
Emergency Medical Technician: 110 hours, which includes 10 hours hospital observation.	MPD protocols, patient assessment, CPR, AED, splinting, immobilizing, O2, BVM, bandaging, splinting, Trauma, triage, medical, pediatrics, operations, OB/GYN, Aspirin, Epi auto-injector, assist with patient's nitro, inhaler.
IV Technician: EMT prerequisite, approx. 50 Hours plus clinical and field internship	MPD protocols, EMT skills and knowledge plus IV therapy skills.
Airway Technician: EMT prerequisite, approx. 50 Hours plus clinical and field internship	MPD protocols, EMT skills and knowledge plus endotracheal intubation (ET) and multi-lumen airway skills.
IV and Airway Technician: EMT prerequisite, approx. 70 hours plus clinical and field internship	MPD protocols, EMT skills and knowledge plus ET, multi-lumen airway, IV therapy skills.
Intermediate Life Support: EMT prerequisite, approx. 100 hours plus clinical and field internship	MPD protocols, EMT skills and knowledge plus multi-lumen airway, IV therapy skills, six meds: Naloxone, Aspirin, Dextrose 50/25, Albuterol, Nitroglycerine, and Epinephrine for anaphylaxis by commercially preload measured-dose device.
Intermediate Life Support/Airway: EMT prerequisite, approx. 100 hours plus clinical and field internship.	MPD protocols, EMT skills and knowledge, ET, multi-lumen airway, IV therapy skills, six meds: Naloxone, Aspirin, Dextrose 50/25, Albuterol, Nitroglycerine, and Epinephrine for anaphylaxis by commercially preloaded measured-dose device.
Paramedic: EMT prerequisite, 1200 - 2000 hours plus clinical and field internship	MPD protocols, EMT skills and knowledge plus ACLS w/ manual defibrillation, ET, multi-lumen airway, meds per MPD protocol, IV therapy skills, and advanced patient assessment, trauma and medical skills.
Air ambulance personnel (may include EMTs through paramedics as well as MDs, RNs, RTs, Etc.)	EMS personnel must follow MPD protocols and training. Flight crews must follow the physician director orders.